

This newsletter is published by:
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Identity Theft

Identity theft occurs when your personal information is stolen and used without your knowledge to commit fraud or other crimes. Deter identity thieves by safeguarding your information.

- Shred financial documents and paperwork with personal information before you discard them.
- Protect your Social Security number. Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet or write your Social Security number on a check. Give it out only when absolutely necessary or ask for another identifier.
- Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail, or over the Internet unless you know who you are dealing with.
- Don't use an obvious password like your birth date, your mother's maiden name or the last four digits of your Social Security number.
- Keep your personal information in a secure place at home.

Source: www.ftc.gov/idtheft

Disaster Resistant Times

Shenandoah Valley Project Impact

Citizen Corps Council and CERT Member Newsletter

March 2008

CERT Course - Spring 2008
Augusta County Government Center in Verona
Thursdays, March 27 - May 8
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



Shenandoah Valley Project Impact, in partnership with Augusta County, the Cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro, and the Town of Broadway is offering **CERT** training. Classes meet one night a week for seven weeks. You will learn about a different topic each night.

Week 1: What Is A Disaster, Disaster Mitigation, and Preparedness

Week 2: Fire Safety

Week 3: Emergency First Aid I

Week 4: Emergency First Aid II

Week 5: Terrorism Preparedness and Crime Prevention

Week 6: Disaster Psychology

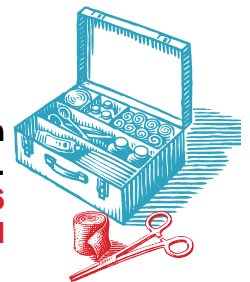
Week 7: Disaster Simulation

**All Classes Are Free
And For The General Public!**

To register for the CERT course contact:
Shenandoah Valley Project Impact, C/O Central Shenandoah PDC
112 MacTanly Place; Staunton, Virginia 24401
Telephone: 540-885-5174; E-mail: cspdc@cspdc.org

CERT Advanced Training Scheduled

CERT members, we will be having an advanced **First Aid Refresher Training** in May. The training will be held on **Tuesday, May 6 and Wednesday, May 7 from 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. each night.**



If you are interested in attending the advanced training, contact Rebecca Joyce at 540-885-5174 or at rebecca@cspdc.org to register.



National Tornado Preparedness Day Is March 18th

If a Tornado is Headed Your Way

Shelter immediately in the nearest sturdy building. Go to the building's basement. If there is no basement, move to a small, windowless interior room such as a closet, bathroom or interior hall on the lowest level of the building. Protect your body from flying debris with a heavy blanket or pillows.

- **Open buildings:** Try to get into the restroom or an interior hallway. Try to get up against something that will support or deflect falling debris. Protect your head by covering it with your arms.
- **Automobiles:** Get out of your vehicle and try to find shelter inside a sturdy building. A culvert or ditch can provide shelter if a substantial building is not nearby. Lie down flat and cover your head with your hands. **Do not** take shelter under a highway overpass or bridge, because debris could get blown under them or the structures themselves could be destroyed.
- **Outdoors:** Try to find shelter in the nearest substantial building. If no buildings are close, lie down flat in a ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.
- **Mobile homes:** Do not stay in mobile homes. You should leave immediately and seek shelter inside a nearby sturdy building or lie down in a ditch away from your home, covering your head with your hands. Mobile homes are extremely unsafe during tornadoes.

Source: www.vaemergency.com

Emergency Preparedness Tool Kit For Persons With Disabilities

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)'s Partnership for People with Disabilities program has created a preparedness tool kit for persons with disabilities. The tool kit was developed to help individuals with disabilities and their families plan ahead in case of emergencies such as hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, or terrorist attack. The tool kit contains a detailed preparedness checklist that can be used as a step-by-step guide for developing an emergency plan. To download a copy of the booklet, visit the Partnership's website at www.vcu.edu/partnership/valend.

2008 Homeland Security Symposium Scheduled

James Madison University's Institute for Infrastructure and Information Assurance in partnership with the Federal Facilities Council of the National Academies will host a homeland security symposium entitled, "Fostering Public-Private Partnerships" on May 22, 2008 at the National Academy of Sciences Building in Washington, D.C. To foster the development of public-private-partnerships, this event program illuminates successful partnerships at the local, regional, and national level as models and considers steps to develop and improve future public-private partnerships. For more information about the symposium check out the JMU IIIA's website at www.jmu.edu/iiia/2008symposium.

Special Disaster Issue of "Southern Rural Sociology"

"Southern Rural Sociology", a publication of the Southern Rural Sociological Association has created a special issue focusing on rural communities and disasters. Article topics include disaster recovery in rural communities, local disaster response, collective response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Mississippi business environment before and after Katrina, and rural disaster mitigation. To view this publication, the website address is www.ag.auburn.edu/auxiliary/srsa.

I-64 Evacuation Gate Installation Completed

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has finished the second phase of installing an additional 298 hurricane evacuation gates along the entry and exit ramps of interstates 64 and 664 to allow lanes to be reversed during an evacuation declaration by the governor. The gates are part of a phased evacuation plan and late reversal for Hampton roads and Southeastern Virginia. More information about evacuation gates is available on VDOT's website at http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/hurricane_gates.asp.

